Broadband USA Applications Database
Applicant Name: ATLANTA, CITY OF
Project Title: Reopen / Upgrade 35 Public Computer Centers (PCCs) in the City of Atlanta's - Centers of Hope.
Project Type: Public Computer Center
_____**Executive Summary**_____

The need for public computing and training for Atlanta residents far exceeds the City's current ability to meet the need. The City currently operates 13 PCCs, with a total of approximatley workstations, which offer access to computer technology and broadband to Atlanta's citizens. All of these 13 PCCs have outdated equipment. Thus, the City's 537,958 residents must rely on approximately 260 outdated computer workstations to meet their computing and broadband needs. This project, at a NTIA grant cost of only about 12 cents/per user/per day, will enable more computers, better software and substantially upgraded educational and workforce training. An expanded base of residents will become comfortable with and then adopt and utilize broadband to improve their lives.

High functioning public computer centers are essential element of Atlanta's overall plan to give access to computer techonology to the City's most vulnerable residents. This project will provide Atlanta students and residents with access to tutoring, libraries, adult education classes, job training and other workforce development through broadband

technologies. This project will help expand public access to broadband service and enhance broadband capacity at 35 PCCs in the City. The City will reopen 22 public computer centers which the City was forced to close due to budgetary constraints. Upgrading those 22 centers as well as the 13 currently operating PCCs, will increase the number of workstations available to City residents to 850.

The City will partner with community anchor, Atlantic City Public Schools (APS), to provide training for users of the PCCs. With more and better computers and training, broadband education will become a more robust program offering.

The 35 PCCs will serve the entire City, with the substantial majority (24) located in the HUD designated Renewal Community areas. Nearly 42% of the City's population resides in Renewal Community areas. And nearly 40% of the population in the Renewal Community areas live at or below the poverty line. The median income for the Renewal Community is $24, 046. According to NTIA's Current Population Survey (CPS) Internet Use 2009 less than 39% of households with an income of $24,999 have broadband access at home. This area also has an employment higher than the national average.   Each of these 35 centers is located within less than 2 miles of one of the 80 public schools in the City.

The City expects that the use of the newly funded and refurbished centers provided during the 2 year grant period will grow as residents become familiar with this expanded and refurbished resource and the associated training. The City estimates that the addition of 22 PCCs and the upgrade of the existing 13 PCCs, will draw, altogether, more than 186,000 users per month. Atlanta's Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (DPRCA) has successfully operated and managed 12 of the existing PCCs since for over 10 years. The Atlanta Workforce Development Agency (AWDA) has operated one of the existing PCC since 2002. Both the Atlanta Public Schools and the AWDA have long standing experience in developing and implementing educational and training programs, APS programs for students and AWDA for adults.   The City's Department of Technology (DIT) has vast experience in upgrading and maintaining workstations and broadband access equipment.

The partners estimate that the project will create an additional 70 new jobs (instructional teachers, technicians, and maintenance personnel; save 34 current jobs (technicians, recreation resources, teachers, technology resources) ; and create approximately 800 part-time summer intern positions, which can leveraged across PCCs. In addition to this direct job creation, increased access to PCCs which offer computing, broadband access and computer training in economically distressed areas will permit the City's residents opportunities for furthering their education, learning new job skills and job hunting.

The City estimates that the overall cost of the project will be $ 12, 357, 365. 00.